

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Examiner's Action

A. Claim Rejections

As set forth on page 2 of the May 27 Office Action, claims 1 – 3, 6 – 7, 10 – 12 and 15 – 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,573,844 B1 to Venolia *et al.* (hereinafter “Venolia” or “the Venolia patent”) in view of United States Patent No. 5,963,671 to Comerford *et al.* (hereinafter “Comerford” or “the Comerford patent”), and further in view of United States Patent No. 7,136,047 to Shimada *et al.*, (hereinafter “Shimada” or “the Shimada patent”).

These rejections are respectfully disagreed with and traversed below.

II. Applicant's Response

A. Rejection of Claims 1 – 3, 6, 7 and 11 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Applicant reproduces claim 1 here (as amended) as a convenience to the Examiner (emphasis added):

1. A method comprising:
receiving a separate information unit entered with an input element of a
dynamic I/O arrangement belonging to a user interface of an
electronic device;
automatically determining from the identity of the separate information
unit without a control input whether input entry is in a first mode
or a second mode,

wherein when it is determined that the input entry is in a first mode, increasing in an equal amount size of members of a group of input elements; and

when it is determined that the input entry is in a second mode, determining based on probability which information units will likely be input next; and emphasizing by size the input elements corresponding to the information units likely to be entered next in the user interface of the electronic device, wherein the sizes of the emphasized input elements vary on a case-specific basis depending on respective probabilities of the information units associated with the input elements.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment finds support throughout the application as filed. Applicant argues that the emphasized subject matter of claim 1 is neither described nor suggested by the art of record, whether taken singly or in combination.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite more clearly an aspect of Applicant's invention. In particular, this aspect of Applicant's invention automatically determines which input element emphasis mode to adopt without a separate input control from the user. In this aspect of Applicant's invention, if the user begins to enter numbers, the invention determines that the user is entering, *e.g.*, a telephone number and equally emphasizes the input elements corresponding to the numbers. Alternatively, if the user enters letters, the invention determines that the user is entering, *e.g.*, text and selectively emphasizes certain input elements in dependence on "respective probabilities of the

information units associated with the input elements.” Applicant has similarly amended independent claims 6 and 11.

Applicant respectfully submits that the art of record neither describes nor suggests these combinations of features, whether taken singly or in combination.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 6 and 11 are allowable over the art of record. As a result, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 11 be withdrawn. Applicant also requests that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, 10 and 12 be withdrawn as well since these claims depend from allowable base claims.



III. Conclusion

Applicant submits that in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn and that the case be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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